



ACT anent Women-Servants in Taverns, &c.

Edinburgh, 13. of December 1699.

THE which Day, the Lord Provost, Baillies and Council of this City, Considering, That by several Acts made, and Proclamations emitted by them, pursuant to many Acts of Parliament, and Acts of the General Convention of the Royal Burrows, The Keeping and Implying of Women-Servants for Retailing Liquors in Taverns, Cellars, Drinking-Shops, and other Places where Liquors are Sold by Retail, is peremptorly Discharged, as a great Snare to the Youth, and Occasion of Leudness and Debauchry; and also Considering, that the Persons Concerned, have been so far from giving Obedience to these laudable Acts and Proclamations, that on the contrair, they have Intertained, and yet keep in their Service, for Vending and Retailing Ale and other Liquors in Cellars and other Places above-mentioned, Women who have been guilty of Fornication, which Practice hath yet a more dangerous tendency to the corrupting of Youth, and will in all probability occasion a greater growth of Immorality, which doeth already too much Abound, to the Dishonour of God, and Scandal of Christianity. Therefore the Magistrats and Town-Council of this City, for Suppressing and Restraining such dangerous and evil Customs, in the mean time, until Methods shall be fallen upon for putting in Execution the foresaid Acts against Retailing Liquors by Women-Servants in general, and without any prejudice thereto: Do peremptorly Discharge all Vintners, Taverners, Inn-keepers and others, to Imploy and Keep in their Service, such Women as have been guilty of Fornication, or shall be guilty thereof in time-coming, for Retailing Wine, Ale, or other Liquors, in Houses, Shops, Cellars and other Places within this City and Suburbs, under the Penalty of One hundred Pounds Scots, to be payed by the Masters or Mistresses where such Servants shall be found, *toties quoties*, they being conscious of the said Guilt of their Servants, attour the Servants Banishment: And Ordains such Masters and Mistresses as have such Servants for Retailing at present, to Remove them from the said Service immediately, under the Penalty foresaid; Certifying all such Masters, Mistresses and Servants who shall Contraveen, that the foresaid Penalties shall be Inflicted and Exacted without Abatement, and that the Masters and Mistresses shall be lyable from such time as their knowledge of their Servants Guilt, after this Proclamation, shall be proven; and separately, that they shall be Repute to have known from and after due and just Intimation of the said Guilt, made by the Elders, or Church Thesaurer. And to the end this Act may be more effectually and punctually Observed, the Council Recommends to the Elders & Deacons, and Church-Thesaurer for the time, to Search their respective Bounds Termly, or oftner, as need requires, that they may Discover such Servant-Women, and if any be Found, to Dilate them and their Master or Mistress to the Magistrats, to be Fined and Punished accordingly. And Appoints this Act to be Published in the usual manner, and Printed, that none may pretend Ignorance. Extracted

JAMES STUART